

When looking at the six most frequently reported referral reasons associated with each referral source, the tables on pages 34 - 36 reveal that, in 2000, law enforcement personnel continued to appear more likely to refer juveniles for traffic complaints (39%), while unruly behavior (22%) was the most often cited reason for referral by parents. With regard to schools, truancy remained the most cited referral reason (62%), while victims continued to refer more often for theft of property (40%).

The 2000 data was analyzed to determine the number of children transferred to adult court for the alleged commitment of delinquent offenses. The data showed that, of the 303 children transferred to adult court in 1998, 94.7% were males, with 67.7% of the children being African American males. The court with the largest number of children transferred was the Shelby County Juvenile Court, which accounted for 52.8% of the statewide transfers. The court with the next highest number of transfers to adult court was Davidson County Juvenile Court (10.6%). Both Rutherford and Sumner County transferred eleven children each (3.6% each for a total of 7.2%). Forty-three (43) courts reported at least one transfer while 55 reported no transfers.

The number of children referred to juvenile courts for allegedly committing offenses has been relatively steady since 1995 (please see the Appendix). With a few exceptions like Assault, there has been little growth in the number of children reported as referred to the juvenile courts in Tennessee.